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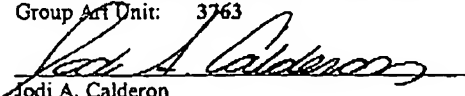
Attention: Examiner Kathryn L. Thompson  
Group Art Unit: 3763

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Jodi A. Calderon

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/634,715

Examiner: Kathryn L. Thompson

Filing Date: August 5, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3763

Inventor: Adel B. Korkor et al.

Attorney Docket No. 155.015

For: *Catheter Introducer Having an Expandable Tip*

Priority: Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Pat. App. 09/896,035, filed June 29, 2001

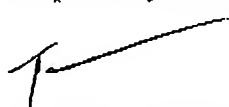
STATUS INQUIRY LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests an update on the status of the above-referenced patent application since more than *eighteen (18) months* have passed since the filing the patent application in which no Office Action has been issued to date.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Timothy E. Newholm  
Registration No. 34,400

Dated: November 15, 2004

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